

[CONFIDENTIAL]

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,
ODDH, CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR.

Received up to 9th December, 1880.

POLITICAL.

The *Agra Akhbār* of the 7th December publishes an article on the Afghan war, the substance of which is as follows:—Our relations with Afghanistan at present are nearly the same as they were three years ago, before the war. It would have been better if the Government had continued to adhere to the policy of Lord Lawrence which had preserved peace for so many years. True, Afghanistan is a small country and bears no comparison with the British power, which rules over one-fifth of the population of the whole world. But it is a mountainous country full of difficult passes; its climate is very inclement, and its inhabitants are a barbarous, cruel, treacherous and fanatic people. It is, as it were, a nest of hornets. We should not have entered into war with the Afghans. Thousands of men perished and millions sterling were spent on the war: but in vain. But it is useless to cry over spilt milk. The chief question which is at present under the consideration of the Government is whether Kandahar should

Circulation,
280 copies.



be retained or abandoned. The Government has not yet arrived at a conclusion, but there are signs which show that it leans in favor of retention. A railroad to Kandahar is being constructed, the country is being carefully examined by British officers, and arrangements have been made for the relief of the troops there in the beginning of the next year. But we should not forget the painful events of 1839. *Moniti meliora sequamur.* The Afghans are a barbarous people, and we should have no faith in them. Moreover, Kandahar would not pay even half the cost of administration. In these circumstances, it would be wiser to pursue Lord Lawrence's policy and keep aloof from Afghanistan. We should endeavour to maintain friendly relations with the country and cripple the power of the great sirdars by inciting internecine quarrels among them.

The *Roznámchah* (Lucknow) of the 4th December states that it is well known that the Sultan of Turkey signed the treaty of Berlin under great pressure. When his army had been totally defeated by Russia, he could not but agree to all her terms in order to save his Empire. Now that he is unwilling to cede Dulcigno to the Montenegrins, the European Powers have sent their joint fleet to the Adriatic and demand the surrender of the town. We have hitherto never heard of arbitrators carrying out their decision by force. It should be remembered that the Sultan agreed to the terms dictated by Russia under pressure. Moreover, the inhabitants of Dulcigno hate the Montenegrins and prefer death to Montenegrin yoke. It is difficult to realize why the European Powers are so anxious to enforce the terms of the Berlin treaty, while they did not take Russia to task, which waged war against Turkey in opposition to the provisions of the treaty of 1856.

Circulation,
685 copies.

The *Oudh Akhbár* of the 6th December states that if the evacuation of Kabul was not a mistake, it will not be a mistake to retire
Kandahar.

from Kandahar. But the question is what arrangements will be made for the management of the affairs at Kandahar in that case, and what will be our scientific frontier in southern Afghanistan? We could abandon Kandahar by retroceding it to Abdul Rahman Khan or by retaining the Wali Sher Ali on the throne. As regards the retrocession of the province to Abdul Rahman, the *Civil and Military Gazette* protests against the scheme, on the ground that he has already more territory than he can well manage. But our contemporary is mistaken. Abdul Rahman may be at present in great danger from the enmity of his rivals, but still there is no doubt that he would readily accept Kandahar. The revenues of that fertile province would remove all his financial difficulties. If we are unwilling to retain the province which we conquered with great difficulty and trouble, we should make it over to Abdul Rahman, and thus place him under another obligation to us. We might also abandon Kandahar if we induced the Wali Sher Ali to remain on the throne, and stationed a strong army there to assist him. But it appears from a Kandahar telegram dated the 1st instant that he has offered his resignation of Waliship, and that the resignation has been accepted by the Viceroy. We hope that the Government will settle the Kandahar question with great care.

The *Oudh Akhbār* of the 8th December states that one of the results of the Afghan war is that the Indian exchequer has been burdened with the cost of supporting some Afghan sirdars, some of whom have been brought as State prisoners to India and the others have voluntarily immigrated. It would have been better if we had induced them to remain at Kabul and made the Amir responsible for the security of their lives and property. In that case we would be saved the cost of their support, and would also be able to obtain trustworthy information from them about the state of affairs at Kabul.

Circulation,
250 copies.

The *Mitra Vilās* (Lahore) of the 6th December states that the Government declared war against the Amir Abdul Rahman Khan. Afghanistan in order to establish British influence at Kabul, and thus remove all fear of Russian intrigues. The war lasted for two years and entailed immense losses upon us. At the end of the war we foolishly placed Abdul Rahman Khan on the throne, which is tantamount to the surrender of the country to Russia. The Russians have afforded him protection and assisted him with money for the last fourteen years. Now that he has obtained the sovereignty of Afghanistan, it may be naturally expected that he will accede to their wishes in all matters.

Circulation,
275 copies.

The *Panjabi Akhbār* (Lahore) of the 27th November (received on the 7th December) states that the speech delivered by His Excellency the Viceroy at the Lahore darbar deserves to be written in golden letters; those sentences especially which were addressed to the native chiefs were nothing short of a revelation. His Excellency observed: "Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has commanded me to convey to the Chiefs of India her warm interest in their welfare, and not in their personal welfare alone, but in the success of their administration and in the well-being of the people of their States. For it is well known, and should be everywhere understood, that the British Government always entertains not only a regard for the honor and advantage of the Chiefs, but also a deep solicitude for their subjects, and that we measure the greatness of a State and the degree of its prosperity not so much by the brilliancy of its court, or even by the power and perfection of its army, as by the happiness and contentment of the people of every class." These sentences clearly show the state of things in Native States. We had interviews with many officers of native Chiefs at the time of the darbar. It appears that the whole expenditure which these

darbars entail upon the native Chiefs is realized by them from the poor cultivators, and the worst of it is that if one rupee goes into the treasury of the State, ten rupees go into the pockets of the tax-collectors. Moreover, when a native Chief is invited to attend a darbar, carriage has to be collected for his baggage. The officers who are entrusted with the duty extort bribes from the owners of draught animals, and the owners are not paid full hire. The native Chiefs should take the advice of the Viceroy into consideration, protect their subjects against the tyranny and oppression of their officers, and endeavour to promote their welfare.

In his reply to the address of the Senate of the Panjab University Lord Ripon expressed his sympathy with the object of the University, which is to encourage the introduction of Western literature and science. There is reason to expect that he will soon bestow the power of conferring degrees upon the University.

In the address which Lord Ripon delivered to the army on the 12th November, he praised the native troops for the bravery and endurance displayed by them in Afghanistan and congratulated the country on the fact that a martial spirit still existed among the natives. True, martial spirit is not yet extinct in the country, but it will become so ere long if the Arms Act is not abolished. The abolition of the Arms Act also recommends itself on another ground. The training of recruits takes much time and costs a great deal of money; but if the natives were already acquainted with the use of arms, they could be turned into soldiers in a short time without difficulty.

The *Mirat-ul-Hind* (Lucknow) for November (received on the 4th December) briefly refers to the sentiments expressed by Lord Ripon in the speeches lately delivered by him at Amritsar and Lahore and approves of them.

The speeches delivered by Lord Ripon at Amritsar and Lahore.

Circulation,
330 copies.

NATIVE STATES.

Circulation,
570 copies.

The *Koh-i-Nūr* (Lahore) of the 4th December states that, as the Nawab of Bahawalpur received an English education at Lahore, it was expected that on his accession to the throne he would make his State a model State. But we have been disappointed in our hopes. Soon after his return to Bahawalpur from Lahore he visited the prison and there committed a very indecent act which we are ashamed to mention. It is well known that polygamy is one of the chief causes which led to the ruin of old Muhammadan monarchies. A man who has many wives becomes luxurious and addicted to sensual pleasures and loses all his energy. The best proof of the custom being a mischievous one is that it is in vogue in no civilized country. Unfortunately the Nawab has fallen into evil company and has married several women, and the result is that he is seldom in good health and does not attend to the affairs of the State. To make matters worse, we have heard that the Bahawalpur Darbar has prohibited the admission of strangers to the public service in the State for the future. Education is in a very backward state in Bahawalpur, and consequently it is essentially necessary that the public service in that State should be recruited by well-educated natives imported from British territory. Flatterers and time-servers cannot, and will not, improve the administration.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The *Akhbār-i-Hind* (published at Lucknow by Mirza Faiáz Beg, Honorary Magistrate) of the 4th December briefly refers to the case of Mr. C. Robertson, a servant of the Rajputana State Railway, who was charged with the murder of an *ayah* named Moti, but was convicted of assault and sentenced to undergo simple imprisonment for one month and to pay a fine of Rs. 100, and remarks: We refrain from expressing our opinion on the

The case of Mr. C. Robertson of the Rajputana State Railway, who was charged with the murder of a native woman.

judgment of the High Court. We have published the facts of the case and leave it to the reader to judge for himself as to whether justice has been done or not in this case. The best way of judging of the punishment inflicted upon Mr. Robertson is by enquiring as to whether the same punishment would have been inflicted upon him if he were a native and Moti *ayah* a European lady. We cannot say what punishment the Court would inflict. But so much is certain, that the Europeans, without awaiting the decision of the Court, would have raised a hue and cry against the accused and denounced him as a cruel and barbarous nigger. We do not mean that the decision of the High Court was not satisfactory, but we regret that the Europeans do not treat the children of the soil as they ought to do, and this prevents the growth of friendship and sympathy between them.

The *Bhārat Bandhu* (Aligarh) of the 3rd December states that of all the taxes levied by Government, the license-tax and the court-fees are felt as the most oppressive by the people. No court-fee was levied under native rule. Just as a Hindu has to give presents to the Brahmins on every occasion, so has the suitor to pay the court-fees. The new scale of *talbanas* fixed by the Allahabad High Court has greatly increased the cost of suits and of the execution of decrees. The cost of the execution of a decree exceeds that of obtaining a decree. The heavy dues levied by Courts induce men to give up their claims rather than realize their money with the assistance of the Courts. We will show how heavy the fees are by an example in a future issue.

Circulation,
140 copies.

The same paper states that Lord Ripon has given a donation of Rs. 1,000 to the Aligarh Muhammadan College and promised a yearly subscription of Rs. 500. The Musalmans are very fortunate and should be thankful to His Lordship for his generosity. It would be a good thing if His

The pecuniary aid given by Lord Ripon to the Aligarh College.

Lordship showed a similar favor to the Hindus to encourage the study of Sanskrit.

Circulation,
925 copies.

The *Akhbār-i-Ām* (Lahore) of the 1st December, in its local news column, complains that one or two vendors of spirituous liquors who sold liquors to European soldiers were lately flogged, but that no punishment was inflicted upon the soldiers. If it is the object of the Government that spirituous liquors should not be sold to soldiers, both the erring shopkeepers and the soldiers should be punished. The soldiers frequently induce poor natives, by bribes or threats, to obtain liquor for them from the shopkeepers. The shopkeepers, who are not prophets, do not know whether the purchasers are buying the liquors for their own use or for soldiers.

The *Roznamchah* (Lucknow) of the 1st December publishes a communicated article, in which the writer states that natives are not practically eligible for higher posts than tahsildarships and extra assistant commissionerships. But these offices have been degraded in the public eye, as they are generally bestowed upon the *amla* class. No muharrir, peshkār, or sharistadar should be appointed a munsif, tahsildar, or extra assistant commissioner. These offices should be reserved for respectable and educated men. The native officers should be divided into two classes, viz., the junior officers and the senior officers. The munsifs, tahsildars, and extra assistant commissioners should form the junior class, and assistant commissioners and the higher officers the senior class. Both these classes of officers should be admitted to the levees and darbars of the Lieutenant-Governor.

Some suggestions for the consideration of Government.

Circulation,
425 copies.

A correspondent of the *Rahbar-i-Hind* (Lahore) of the 7th December makes the following proposals for the consideration of Government :—

(1) The native element in the Viceroy's Legislative Council is very small. At least one-third of the members should be natives.

(2) At least two natives should be admitted to the British Parliament.

(3) Act XV. of 1856 was passed to encourage the remarriage of Hindu widows, but it is to be regretted that little practical good has accrued from the Act. The provisions of the Act should be made more extensive, in order that the widows may more largely avail themselves of them than they do at present. Act XV. of 1856 does not refer to the ways in which a widow may marry. It should be observed that *Niyog* or leviration is in accordance with the Hindu Shastras. The encouragement of widow marriage would put a stop to a great deal of crime.

(4) The rate of postage for parcels is very high. Every parcel which weighs 40 tolas or less is charged eight annas. The same rate should be fixed for parcels as for packets, viz. one anna per each ten tolas.

(5) The "Intermediate class" carriages should be introduced on the State Railways for the convenience of the higher classes of natives.

(6) The pay of naib-tahsildars should be increased. It has been much reduced since the appointment of munsifs. A naib-tahsildar can hardly live in a style suitable to his rank on Rs. 30 a month.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Pramod Sindhu* (Amraoti) of the 6th December urges that water-works should be constructed at Amraoti in order to remove the scarcity of water. It is rumoured that the Government has agreed to pay half of the cost, and also to lend money to the municipal committee for the purpose. If this is the case, what is the cause of the delay?

The construction of water-works at Amraoti, Berar.

Circulation,
125 copies.

Circulation,
70 copies.

The *Mihir-i-Nimroz* (Bijnor) of the 30th November (received on the 3rd December) complains that the road from Bijnor to Meerut is in a very bad condition. Moreover, the writer states that there are four or five *nallas* between Bijnor and Meerut in which the water is sometimes a yard deep. The travellers, especially those who have with them carriages or ponies loaded with goods, are exposed to great inconvenience in crossing them. Bridges should be constructed over them.

Circulation,
685 copies.

The *Oudh Akhbār* of the 6th December states that on the 25th November last a British soldier, who was drunk, fired a gun at the Sháhjahánpur railway station. Some shots wounded a native passenger, who lay on the platform at the time, on the shoulder. The soldier is in custody.

Circulation,
380 copies.

The *Anjuman-i-Panjáb* (Lahore) of the 3rd December, in its local news column, states: Several complaints have reached us about the alleged mismanagement of Wazir Khan's mosque endowment. The complainants ascribe the mismanagement to the fact that the managers are employed in other districts, and say that if the income of the mosque, which is said to amount to Rs. 100 a month, were properly spent, it would not only suffice to keep the mosque in good repair, but an Arabic school might be also maintained from it. If the managers do not live in Lahore, some descendant of the donor should be appointed manager. The Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner should see to this.

Circulation,
685 copies.

The *Oudh Akhbār* of the 4th December states that Lord Lawrence was an able statesman and a true friend of India. Some of his prophecies have already been fulfilled. Only the other day Lord Ripon expressed his intention of

The Lawrence Memorial
Fund and the Agricultural
Institute, Bijnor.

following his policy. A committee has been established at London to raise subscriptions to perpetuate his memory. The object of the committee is to obtain a picture of Lord Lawrence and to establish some scholarships for Indian students at London out of the memorial fund, or to render some material aid to those Indian youths who visit England for scientific purposes. Lord Lawrence bestowed many benefits upon India in his lifetime, and even the subscriptions which are being collected to perpetuate his memory will be devoted to promote the interests of the natives. It behoves all natives to contribute to the fund. The *Oudh Akhbār* then publishes an account of the proceedings of the meeting held at Bijnor on the 22nd July last by the Bijnor Agricultural Institute to raise subscriptions for the purpose. Rs. 900 were subscribed on the spot. Raja Jaikishan Das, C.S.I., Deputy Collector, contributed Rs. 250, and Raja Jagat Singh and Kunwar Sham Singh Rs. 200 each.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

No.	NAME.	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISHER.	DATE OF PAPER.	DATE OF RECEIPT.	CIRCULATION.
1	<i>Aftab-i-Panjáb</i>	Lahore	Urdu	Bi-weekly	Divan Buta Singh,	Decr. 6th	1880. 8th	660 copies.
2	<i>Agra Akhbar</i>	Agra	Ditto	Weekly	Khawaja Usaf Ali,	" 7th	" 9th	280 "
3	<i>Ahsan-ul-Akhbar</i>	Moradabad	Ditto	Ditto	Ali Hussain Khan	" 2nd	" 6th	120 "
4	<i>Akhbar-i-Alam</i>	Meerut	Ditto	Ditto	Kamta Prasad	" 4th	" 8th	125 "
5	<i>Akhbar-i-Am</i>	Lahore	Ditto	Ditto	Mokand Ram	" 1st	" 3rd	925 copies (including 55 copies taken by Govt.).
6	<i>Akhbar-i-Hind</i>	Lucknow,	Ditto	Ditto	Mirza Fiaz Beg	" 4th	" 6th	...
7	<i>Akhbar-i-Shamsher Prakash.</i>	Saharanpur.	Ditto	Daily	Muhammad Zikria,	Novr. 30th to 6th Decr.	" 8th	...
8	<i>Akhbar-i-Tamannai,</i>	Lucknow,	Ditto	Weekly	Puran Chand	Decr. 1st & 8th	" 3rd & 9th respectively.	125 copies.
9	<i>Almas-ul-Akhbar</i>	Delhi	Ditto	Ditto	Sayyid Fakhr-ud-din.	Novr. 30th	" 4th	80 "
10	<i>Aligarh Institute Gazette.</i>	Aligarh	Urdu-Eng-lish.	Bi-weekly	Golab Rai	Decr. 4th & 7th	" 6th & 9th respectively.	282 copies (including 65 copies taken by Govt.).
11	<i>Almorah Akhbar</i>	Almora	Hindi	Bi-monthly	Sada Nand	" 1st	" 4th	50 copies.
12	<i>Ajuman-i-Akhbar</i>	Shahjahanpur.	Urdu	Ditto	Moti Mian	" "	" "	20 "
13	<i>Ajuman-i-Hind</i>	Lucknow,	Ditto	Weekly	Chandan Lal	Novr. 27th	" 3rd	185 "

18 Anjuman-i-Hind ... Lucknow, Ditto ... Weekly ... Chandan Lal ... Novr. 27th ... 3rd ... 185 "

14	Anjuman-i-Panjāb	Lahore	Ditto	Ditto	Mir Nusar Ali	Decr. 3rd	...	6th	...	380 copies (including 200 copies taken by Govt.).
15	Ashraf-ul-Ahbab	Delhi	Ditto	Tri-monthly, Weekly	Mirza Khan	" 1st	...	5th	...	100 copies.
16	Berār Samācher	Akola	Marathi-English.	Weekly	Khande Rao Balaji,	Novr. 29th & 6th Decr.	...	3rd & 9th respectively.	...	250 "
17	Bhārat Bandh	Aligarh	Hindi	Ditto	Tota Ram	Decr. 3rd	...	6th	...	140 "
18	Dabdeba-i-Qairi	Bareilly	Urdu	Ditto	Thakur Prasad	" 4th	...	9th	...	220 "
19	Dabdeba-i-Sikandri	Rampur	Ditto	Ditto	Muhammed Husain,	" 6th	...	8th	...	409 "
20	Dak Panch	Lahore	Ditto	Ditto	Husain Ali	"	...	"	...	375 "
21	Gwalior Gazette	Gwalior	Hindi-Urdu,	Ditto	"	Novr. 28th	...	5th
22	Harish Chandrika	Benares	Hindi	Monthly	Nand Lal	For the Hindi month of Aghan.	...	6th
23	Jeipur Gazette	Jaipur	Hindi-English.	Bi-weekly	Mahendro Nath Sen.	Decr. 1st & 4th	...	4th & 7th respectively.	...	275 "
24	Jalwah Tar	Meerut	Urdu	Weekly	Rai Ganeshi Lal	" 1st	...	4th	...	100 "
25	Karnamah	Lucknow,	Ditto	Ditto	Muhammed Yaqub,	" 6th	...	8th	...	250 "
26	Kahi Patrika	Benares	Hindi-Urdu,	Ditto	Baleshwar Prasad,	" 3rd	...	5th	...	550 copies (including 200 copies taken by Govt.).
27	Kanab-i-Hind	Lucknow,	Urdu	Bi-monthly,	Revd. T. Craven	"	...	4th	...	362 copies.
28	Kavi Vachan Sudha,	Benares	Hindi	Weekly	Chintamani Rao	Novr. 29th	...	3rd	...	300 "
29	Khair Khwah-i-Alam	Delhi	Urdu	Ditto	Mir Hasan	Decr. 1st	...	4th	...	105 "
30	Khair Khwah-i-Panjāb.	Gujranwala.	Ditto	Ditto	Brij Lal	" 5th	...	8th	...	600 "
31	Koh-i-Nar	Lahore	Ditto	Ditto	Jawwad Ali	" 4th	...	6th	...	570 copies (including 81 copies taken by Govt.).
32	Lah-i-Mahfas	Moradabad	Ditto	Ditto	Mehndi Husain Khan.	" 3rd	...	9th	...	100 copies.

List of papers examined—(concluded).

No.	NAME.	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISHER.	DATE OF PAPER.	DATE OF RECEIPT.	CIRCULATION.
33	Lucknow Gazette	Lucknow,	Urdu	Weekly	...	Decr. 8th	1880.	...
34	Mérwâr Gazette	Jodhpur	Hindi-Urdu,	Ditto	Gobardhan Das	Novr. 29th	9th	100 copies.
35	Mashir-i-Qaisar	Lucknow,	Urdu	Ditto	Ghulam Muhammad	30th	5th	150 "
36	Mihir-i-Darakhshân,	Delhi	Ditto	Tri-monthly,	Nusrat Ali	Decr. 1st	3rd	300 "
37	Mihir-i-Nimroz	Bijnor	Ditto	Weekly	Muhib-ul-lah	Novr. 30th	9th	70 "
38	Mihir-i-Zarâfat	Lucknow,	Ditto	Ditto	Puran Chand	Decr. 4th	3rd	100 "
39	Mirât-ul-i-Hind	Ditto	Ditto	Monthly	Kishan Narain	For the month of Novr.	7th	330 "
40	Mitra Vilâs	Lahore	Hindi	Weekly	Mokand Ram	Decr. 6th	4th	250 "
41	Muraqa-i-Tahrîb	Lucknow,	Urdu	Bi-monthly,	Behari Lal	1st	9th	125 "
42	Mulla-i-Nâr	Cawnpore,	Ditto	Weekly	Nabi Bakhsh	Novr. 30th	4th	46 "
43	Nair-i-Azam	Moradabad,	Ditto	Ditto	Amjid Ali	29th	3rd	115 "
44	Nairang Mazâmîn	Muttra	Ditto	Bi-monthly,	Meva Ram	30th	"	185 "
45	Najmul Akhbâr	Etawâh	Ditto	Weekly	Muhammed Hayat,	Decr. 1st	"	130 "
46	Nasim-i-Hind	Fatehpur,	Ditto	Ditto	Ambica Prasad	Novr. 30th	"	106 "
47	Nâr Afshân	Ludhiana,	Ditto	Ditto	Revd. E. M. Wherry,	Decr. 2nd	4th	460 "
48	Nur-ul-Absâr	Allahabad,	Ditto	Bi-monthly,	Roshan Lal	1st	3rd	104 copies (including 40 copies taken by Govt.)
49	Nâr-ul-Anwar	Cawnpore,	Ditto	Weekly	Muhammad Yaqub,	4th	4th	350 copies.
50	Nusrat-ul-Akhbâr	Delhi	Ditto	Tri-monthly,	Nusrat Ali	1st	9th	150 "
51	Qudh Akhbâr	Lucknow,	Ditto	Daily	Sheo Prasad	3rd to 9th respectively.	3rd to 9th respectively.	685 copies (including 90 copies taken by Govt.).

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